

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 TRSE-00 /067 W

-----011884 300459Z /10

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9749

INFO COMUSJAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS TOKYO 11451

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE REORGANIZATION

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: AT OUTSET ONE-WEEK SPECIAL DIET SESSION, JEN YASUI, LDP, AND KAN KASE, JSP, BOTH PARTY VETERANS, ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT RESPECTIVELY OF UPPER HOUSE. ATTEMPT BY SOME OPPOSITION TO RE-ELECT INCUMBENT PRESIDENT KENZO KONO INNEFFECTUAL. WITH LDP UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY ONLY 124 OF 247 SEATS. (PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT EXCLUDED), ASSIGNMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES AND SELECTION OF CHAIRMEN REFLECT DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN LDP AND COMBINED OPPOSITION. FINAL DAYS OF SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO PRIME POLICY SPEECH AND INTERPELLATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING OPENING OF ONE-WEEK EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, KEN YASUI (LDP), 66 FORMER HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER, WHO HAS SERVED IN UPPER HOUSE SINCE 1950 WITH REPUTATION AS HARDLINE CONSERVATIVE, ELECTED PRESIDENT. VICE PRESIDENT IS KAN KASE OF JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY, FIRST NON-LDP VICE CHAIRMAN IN 24 YEARS. YASUI'S ONLY RIVAL FOR PRESIDENCY WAS INCUMBENT KENZO KONO, WHO SOUGHT THIRD TERM. ORIGINALLY IN LDP, KONO, UNCLE

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OF NEW LIBERAL CLUB LEADER YOHEI KONO, OFFICIALLY BECAME INDEPENDENT ON FIRST ASSUMING PRESIDENCY. KONO WAS ORIGINALLY ELECTED WITH SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SOME LDP MEMBERS, BUT MANY OF HIS FORMER LDP COLLAGUES THOUGHT HE HAD CARRIED IMPARTIALITY TO POINT OF FAVORING OPPOSITIO. KONO RECEIVED 26 OF 244 BALLOTS CAST. UPON ELECTION BOTH YASUI AND KONO RESIGNED FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES.

2. NEW COMPOSITION UPPER HOUSE, REFLECTING THESE RESIGNATIONS,  
TWO RECENT DEATHS, AND POST-ELECTION AFFILIATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| LDP       | 124 |
| JSP       | 55  |
| CGP       | 28  |
| JCP       | 16  |
| DSP       | 11  |
| MIIN CLUB | 5   |
| NLC       | 5   |
| IND       | 5   |
| VACANCIES | 3   |
| TOTA      | 252 |

ONE VACANCY, PREFECTURAL-CONSTITUNCY SEAT IN CONSERVATIVE KAGOSHIMA, WILL BE FILLED IN SEPTEMBER BY-ELECTION, BUT REMAINING TWO ARE IN NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND WILL REMAIN VACANT UNTIL NEXT SCHEDULED ELECTION IN 1980. ALL INDEPENDENT/MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES ELECTED IN JULY HAVE JOINED OR AFFILIATED WITH EXISTING GROUPS (THREE WITH LDP), EXCEPT FOR KONO, SATSUKI EDA AND EITA YASHIRO, WHO, ALONG WITH YASUI AND KONO, WILL REMAIN INDEPENDENT.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEAT COUNT, LDP TOOK CHAIRMANSHIPS OF 9 STANDING COMMITTEES, JSP 4, CGP 2 AND JCP 1, AS IN PAST UPPER HOUSE. SIMILAR POWER BALANCE WILL PROBABLY PREVAIL AMONG CHAIRMEN OF EIGHT UPPER HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEES TO TO CHOSEN WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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NEXT TWO DAYS.

4. REMAINING ITEM OF BUSINESS FOR SPECIAL SESSION--AND ONLY ONE THAT CONCERNS LOWER HOUSE--IS JULY 30 POLICY SPEECH BY PRIME FUKUDA, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THREE DAYS OF INTERPELLATION AUG. 1-3. SPEECH IS EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND FUKUDA'S FORTHCOMING ASEAN TRIP. MUCH MORE WILL BE SAID ABOUT ECMNOMY AT LONGER EXTRAORDINARY SESSION PLANNED FOR LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER, WHEN LDP PLANS TO INTRODUCE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, JA  
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